

SENATE BILL 2262

By Springer

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 4, Chapter 29 and Title 41, Chapter 10, relative to volunteer advisory boards.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 41-10-101, is amended by adding the following new subdivisions to be numbered accordingly:

- () "Board" means the board of probation and parole;
- () "Chair" means the chair of the board of probation and parole;
- () "Commissioner" means the commissioner of correction;
- () "CRDC" means the community resource development committee; and
- () "TCRB" means the Tennessee community resource board.

SECTION 2. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 41-10-101(3), is amended by deleting such subdivision in its entirety and by substituting instead the following:

(3) "Offender" means a person who is under the authority of the department, pursuant to a court order, a pending court disposition in a state of Tennessee criminal case, or under the authority of the board, pursuant to release under probation or parole supervision, or some other release program from any correctional institution.

SECTION 3. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 41-10-101(5), is amended by deleting such subdivision in its entirety and by substituting instead the following:

(5) "Volunteer" means an employee who, after fulfilling appropriate policy requirements, is assigned to a volunteer job and provides a service, without pay, from the department or board, except for compensation for those expenses incurred directly as the result of volunteer services as defined in this part. A volunteer shall have the same grievance rights and liability protection given to paid employees;

SECTION 4. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 41-10-105, is amended by deleting such section in its entirety and by substituting instead the following:

(a) The department and the board shall establish a Tennessee volunteer resource board (TCRB) composed of fifteen (15) members. Five (5) members shall be selected from each grand division of the state. The commissioner and the chair shall appoint jointly the TCRB members. Members shall serve terms of three (3) years. Members of the TCRB shall, upon expiration of their terms of office, be eligible for reappointment to successive terms. In making appointments to the board, the commissioner and the chair shall strive to ensure that at least one (1) person serving on the TCRB is sixty (60) years of age or older and that at least one (1) person serving on the TCRB is a member of a racial minority. Members shall have served in a volunteer capacity in corrections, in probation or parole, or in an academic environment in the field of criminal justice or other such related field. Members shall serve terms of three (3) years. Vacancies shall be filled by the TCRB, provided the person filling the vacancy shall receive the written approval of the commissioner and chair. The TCRB shall serve both the department and the board. The purpose of the TCRB shall be to:

(1) Coordinate with and assist the department and the board in developing and utilizing volunteer resources in assisting parolees, probationers, and inmates in reintegrating into society as productive, law-abiding, citizens;

- (2) Coordinate with and assist the department and the board in developing policies and procedures governing the utilization of volunteers;
- (3) Coordinate a network of local parole, probation, and institutional community resource boards on matters of statewide impact;
- (4) Advise the department and the board on matters of public interest and concern;
- (5) Assist the department and the board in accomplishing their missions;
- (6) Review and recommend programs having statewide impact involving volunteers; and
- (7) Oversee such projects when appropriate.

(b) A community resource development committee (CRDC) is hereby established. The committee shall meet at least three (3) times each year and shall be composed of six (6) members. Two (2) members shall be from the department and shall be appointed by the commissioner, two (2) members shall be from the board and shall be appointed by the chair, and two (2) members shall be from the TCRB and shall be appointed by the chair of the TCRB. Members shall serve terms of three (3) years. Members of the committee shall, upon expiration of their terms of office, be eligible for reappointment to successive terms. Officers of the committee shall be selected by the members of the committee and shall serve terms of one (1) year. Officers may be reappointed to their positions for one (1) additional term. The purpose of this committee shall be to:

- (1) Develop a coordinated program plan for utilizing volunteer resources by the department and the board. The plan shall include, but is not limited to, a coordinated plan for helping parolees, probationers, and inmates reintegrate back into society as productive, law-abiding citizens;
- (2) Develop policies, procedures, and processes for utilization of volunteer resources by the department and the board;

- (3) Establish specific programs and goals for utilizing volunteer resources; and
- (4) Establish and monitor performance measures to determine whether goals for utilizing volunteers are met.

(c) The commissioner and the chair shall meet with the community resource development committee at least once each year to review the goals, accomplishments and concerns of the committee.

(d) The plans, goals, programs, policies, procedures, processes, and performance measures developed by the CRDC shall be submitted to the department, the board, and TCRB for approval, prior to implementation.

(e) The CRDC shall submit a semi-annual report to the commissioner and the chair detailing the CRDC's progress in each of the four (4) areas above. The commissioner and chair shall forward such report to the select oversight committee on corrections. The report shall include specifics on goals and performance and data on the cost of using volunteers, and the cost benefits, if any, to the department, the board and the state.

(f) Local parole, probation, and prison institution community resource boards may be established. The purpose of these local boards is to cooperate with local probation and parole offices and correctional institutions to:

- (1) Develop a program plan for utilizing volunteers, which is compatible with overall statewide plan developed by the CRDC;
- (2) Establish specific goals for utilizing volunteers;
- (3) Establish performance measures for determining that goals are met; and
- (4) Collect data on the cost of using volunteers and the cost benefits to the local office or institution.

(g) Local volunteer resource boards shall report semi-annually to TCRB on their program plans, goals, and performance measures.

SECTION 5. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 41-10-102, is amended by adding the following as new subsection (b) and by relettering the existing subsection (b) accordingly:

(b) The board is authorized to recruit, train and appoint volunteers to programs of the board without regard to state employment regulations as administered by the department of personnel. Such volunteers shall be required to comply with all applicable board policies. The board is further authorized to provide such incidental reimbursement as is consistent with the provisions of this part and with appropriate state regulations.

SECTION 6. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 41, Chapter 10, Part 3, is amended by deleting such part in its entirety.

SECTION 7. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 4-29-223(a), is amended by adding the following new items thereto:

() Tennessee volunteer resource board, created by § 41-10-105;

() Community resource development committee, created by § 41-10-105;

SECTION 8. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.